

REMARKS

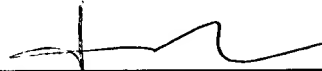
Claims 1-9 are pending in this application. With respect to independent Claims 1, 8, and 9, Applicants note that the Examiner objects to these claims because ascertaining the shortest route to a target node **by a branch node** is well known in the art. Applicants invention, however, also supports the **package** checking **the packages's** routing table. (See, *e.g.*, specification page 8, lines 6-12.)

In order to accelerate the prosecution of this application, Applicants have also amended Claim 5 without narrowing the scope of the claim. Claim 5 includes, among other features, the feature that each branch node forwards information to subsequent nodes along each branch, editing said information for each branch to include only target nodes reached via that branch (*e.g.*, for conserving bandwidth). Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 5 is allowable. The amendments to Claim 5 are supported by the specification. (See, *e.g.*, Claims 1, 4 and 5.) Applicants note that, in rejecting Claim 5, the Office Action cited Otto, column 5, lines 19-31; column 5, lines 32-65; and column 9, lines 19-26 which have no mention of editing information to include **only** target nodes reached via a branch.

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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